

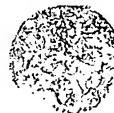
REMARKS

The Applicants would like to begin by thanking the Examiner for the Office action. The Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims (as shown above) have addressed the matters raised in the Office action (specifically, regarding the numerous identified species, the concomitant examination and search burden, and the lack of a generic claim), and pray that the Examiner will favorably receive the Applicants remarks, below.

Amendments to the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

- Independent claim 32 has been cancelled and is replaced with new independent claim 63 which includes certain limitations of claim 33, as well as the limitations of claims 36-37, 42-43, 45-46, 52 and 55.
- Claims 33, 38, 40-41, 44, 47, 49-51, 53, 56, 58-59 and 61-62 have been amended to change their dependency to new claim 63.
- Claim 33 has been amended to remove limitations added to claim 63.
- Claims 36-37, 42-43, 45-46 and 52 have been cancelled as being redundant in view of the limitations contained in claim 63 (from which these claims now depend).
- Claim 53 has been amended to limit the "means to change the wavelength of radiation emitted by the second amplifying waveguide" to a single construct.



- Claim 54 has been cancelled as being inconsistent in view of the amendments to claim 53.
- Claims 64-66 are newly added to separately recite the limitations deleted from claim 53; new claim 67 generally replaces cancelled claim 54.
- New claim 68 includes and combines selected limitations from claims 54 and 61.
- Claim 69 (newly added) depends from claim 63; new claims 70-71 are independent claims.

Election/Restrictions

A Restriction has been imposed on claims 32-62 in the Office action of March 27, 2008. Specifically, the Examiner has identified "patentably distinct species" A, B, C and D, and for each species has identified multiple "variants". (See page 2 of the Office action.) The Examiner has requested that the Applicants identify the elected species by choosing "one from each letter group", and identifying claims encompassed within the elected species.

The Applicants hereby provisionally elect species A4 (Fig. 11), B2 (first optical fiber is multi-mode), C3 (means to change wavelength is source of optical radiation), and D3 (Fig. 7 - apparatus is in the form of a master oscillator power amplifier). The claim corresponding to this structure is claim 67.

This election is being made with traverse, as follows.

Specifically, the Applicants contend that the Examiner has identified species which are unnecessarily restrictive, and that the Examiner is able to search on a claim which is



broader than the provisionally elected claim (claim 67). Further, the Applicants contend that new claim 63, as currently presented, is a generic claim which is not so broad as to impose an unreasonable burden on the Examiner to search and examine.

It is noted that claim 63 includes many limitations not previously included in claim 32, and which were not included in any of the "species" identified by the Examiner. The Applicants contend that the full complement of limitations now provided for in claim 63 results in a claim which is capable of search and examination without undue burden.

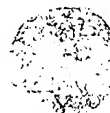
The Applicants also contend that claim 63 is generic, and that all of the remaining claims which depend from claim 63 (either directly or indirectly, i.e., claims 33-35, 38-41, 44, 47-53, 56-62 and 64-69) are fully consistent with claim 63.

Further, the Applicants contend that new independent claims 70 and 71 are not directed towards a distinct invention, and should be examined along with claim 63 at this time.

For all of these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that the restriction requirement now be withdrawn, and that all of claims 33-35, 38-41, 44, 47-53 and 56-67 be examined at this time.

Request for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR § 1.136(a)

The Applicants hereby request a one (1) month extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) to respond to the Office action of March 21, 2008 by May 21, 2008. The required fee is enclosed herewith.



Summary

The Applicants hereby request favorable and timely substantive examination of the claims presented herewith.

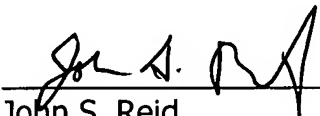
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the below-signed representative if the Examiner believes this will facilitate prosecution toward allowance of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

Malcolm Paul VARNHAM,
Mikhail Nicholas ZERVAS,
David Neil PAYNE, and
Lars Johan Albinsson NILSSON,
Applicants

Date: May 6, 2008

By:



John S. Reid
Reg. No. 36,369

